

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 019094

R 060645Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9686

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 5435

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, TH, JA, CB, LA, US

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION TO PREMIER ABOUT ROC UNILATERAL
ANNOUNCEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL 374TH TAW

REF: STATE 175128

1. CHARGE CONVEYED POINTS IN PARA 4 REFTEL TO
PREMIER SEPTEMBER 6. PREMIER DID NOT DENY THAT ROC HAD
MOVED UNILATERALLY WHILE ISSUE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION
WITH US, BUT HE STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE HAD NOT
INTENDED TO EMBARRASS THE EMBASSY OR USG. WITHOUT
DIRECTLY APOLOGIZING, HE MORE OR LESS DID SO, PLACING
MOST OF THE BLAME ON MND. IN VIEW US DETERMINATION TO
PROCEED WITH ITS ANNOUNCEMENT, HE SAID, HIS MILITARY
ADVISORS FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT THERE HAD TO BE
SOME ROC STATEMENT. FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, MOREOVER,
THEY WISHED TO HAVE ISSUE OUT OF WAY BEFORE ROC ARMED
FORCES DAY SEPT. 3. CCK CONVENIENTLY SLID OVER HIS
OWN ROLE IN APPROVING MND'S RECOMMENDATION.

2. IN CONCLUSION, PREMIER NOTED THAT THE MND ANNOUNCE-
MENT WAS CONSISTENT WITH US STATEMENT AND HAD NOT GOTTEN
SECRET

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MUCH PLAY. CHARGE AGREED THAT IN SUBSTANTIVE SENSE,
THE PROCESS OF DISCLOSURE HAD GONE QUITE WELL. NEVER-
THELESS, IN TERMS OF OUR NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR
CONSULTATION, HE REGRETTEED THAT THE ROC HAD RAISED

PROBLEM OF CREDIBILITY BY MOVING WITHOUT WAITING FOR OUR RESPONSE. THERE WOULD BE, HE NOTED, FURTHER PROBLEMS REQUIRING CAREFUL COORDINATION AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITH REPETITION OF LAST WEEKEND.

3. COMMENT:ALTHOUGH CONVERSATION WAS LOW KEY, IT WAS SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICIT TO GET POINTS ACROSS VERY CLEARLY. CCK WAS OBVIOUSLY PREPARED FOR THE MEETING AND, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HANDLED HIMSELF SKILLFULLY. HE BETRAYED NO DISCOMFORT AND MADE A SPECIAL POINT AFTER THE DISCUSSION TO ENGAGE CHARGE IN FRIENDLY CHAT ON OTHER MATTERS.

4. WE ARE ASKING OUR MILITARY AND ATG COLLEAGUES TO HELP US GLEAN INFORMATION FOR A BETTER ASSESSMENT OF THIS EPISODE'S SIGNIFICANCE. OUR IMPRESSION AT THIS POINT IS THAT WE MAY OCCASIONALLY UNDERESTIMATE THE EXTENT OF ROC DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING DIFFICULT POLITICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND THAT WE MAY ALSO OVERESTIMATE THE EASE WITH WHICH CCK CAN OVERCOME PROBLEMS AS HE CONSOLIDATES HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION. WHILE THE REFERENCE TO MND MAY BE SIMPLE BLAME-SHIFTING, STILL IT IS AN UNCHARACTERISTIC TACK FOR CCK TO TAKE WITH US.
GLEYSTEN

SECRET

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